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## REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

## STUDIES IN JEWISH STATISTICS.

*Studies in Jewish Statistics, social, vital, and anthropometric.* By Joseph Jacobs. London, 1891. Pp. 59, lxi 13.

Since many theories concerning the Jews are based upon insufficient or inaccurate data, the author has attempted to bring together in this little book "a larger quantity of statistical material than is elsewhere available" in regard to this race. On the subject of consanguineous marriages the writer concludes that about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of all Jewish marriages in England are between first cousins, a considerably greater proportion than Mr. G. H. Darwin calculated as taking place among the English in general, and probably a larger percentage than would hold true of Jews on the continent. Apparently, though not certainly, such marriages are more fertile than others; but Mr. Jacobs does not think that it is at all established that the offspring are unusually subject to physical or mental ills.

"One of the most firmly rooted ideas in the popular mind is that all Jews are rich." "Perhaps one of the causes of the idea has been that the Jewish poor have never been a burden to the general population, but have been entirely supported by the Jews themselves." The Jews of Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe are poor; it is only in Western Europe and America that the wealthier are to be found. Confining the attention to the London Jews, it is estimated that 14.6 per cent have incomes averaging £367, 42.2 per cent £54, 19.6 per cent £26, and 23.6 per cent £12. During the year specially investigated it appeared that about one in four had been aided to a greater or less extent by their co-religionists, though the number of actual paupers was only one-half of 1 per cent. A few were rich, the many poor,—no middle class.

A much larger proportion of Jews than of the general population live in cities, and it is therefore impossible, or at least unfair, to attempt a comparison of occupations as between them and other races. Religious considerations and legal restrictions have had much to do with drawing the Israelites into the larger towns. It would be an

interesting question to determine to what extent their disproportionate congregation in cities is responsible for "their larger proportion of mentally and physically afflicted, their smaller bodily size, and the general 'movement' of the Jewish population." Commerce seems to attract about three times as great a percentage of Jews as of Christians, though it should also be added that the handicrafts claim a much larger proportion than is conceded by anti-Semitic orators and pamphleteers. In law, medicine, and literature on the continent, but not in England, Jewish names figure much oftener than in the general population, this being especially true of Austria-Hungary and Prussia; and in the universities also their proportion is high.

From a comparison of statistics of a considerable number of countries it appears that Jews marry younger, and, at the same time, less frequently than Christians, have a smaller birth rate according to population, but larger according to marriages; a smaller death rate, particularly under five years of age, and perhaps a slightly greater longevity. Jews are shorter and narrower than other European races, have darker hair and eyes, and, strangely, a larger percentage of red-haired persons.

There is much other interesting and suggestive matter in this work, to which it will be impossible to call attention. Those interested are therefore urged to refer directly to Mr. Jacobs's temperate and unprejudiced discussion.

CHARLES F. A. CURRIER.

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#### THE WOOL BOOK.

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*A Statistical Manual Containing the Latest Official Data of the Production, Movement, and Consumption of Wool in all Countries.* Compiled for the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, by S. N. D. North, Secretary, Boston, 1892.

This little volume is another illustration of the increasing tendency in all large lines of business to predicate enterprise upon authenticated statistical data. This has long been true in cotton, in iron and steel, and in other lines. The present publication is, we believe, the first attempt in any country to supply a commercial handbook containing all the attainable data regarding the world's production and consumption of wool.